



City of Westminster

NEWS AND NOTES

Volume Three, Issue 1a



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

I would like to introduce our newest service for residents—The City of Westminster: Arts, Entertainment and Activities Facebook page. This Facebook page will provide up to date information on all events taking place in the City, including those sponsored by the City of Westminster, Main Street Program, Carroll Arts Center, McDaniel College, Carroll County Tourism, Carroll County Historical Society and the Westminster branch of the Carroll County Public Library.

If you are looking for something to do this weekend, please find us on Facebook at City of Westminster: Arts, Entertainment and Activities. And, we ask that you encourage your friends and neighbors to “friend” us and participate in our activities.

While you are visiting the City, we would like to encourage you to visit these recent additions to our Cityscape:

- Bart Walter’s “Wild Imaginings” sculpture at the Westminster branch of the Carroll County Public Library completes the renovation of the external park space.
- The Community Building at City Park was completed and dedicated in 2010. Occupied by Fallfest staff and volunteers, this building will provide community meeting space and a refreshment stand for park participants. This was a Project Open Space project.
- Also at City Park is the tot lot donated by the Westminster Lion’s Club and dedicated this past spring.
- Project Open Space also funded a replacement of the Bishop’s Garth Park which was completed in September.
- The first four town homes in the Union Crossing development on Union Street were constructed and offered for sale. The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development officiated at the ribbon cutting ceremony for this Community Development Block Grant project, along with the Pennsylvania Avenue Streetscape Project.

We have also welcomed two new partners to our community: Dr. Roger Casey is the new President of McDaniel College and five new Commissioners have been elected to the Carroll County Board of Commissioners. Dave Roush is the newly elected Third District Commissioner.

Dr. Casey has announced his goal of strengthening the partnership with the City and the first activity in achieving this goal was a Tour of Main Street businesses and shops on Homecoming weekend. Dr. Casey was accompanied by his five vice-presidents, several members of the Board of Trustees and the Mayor and Common Council.

We congratulate Commissioner Roush and look forward to working with him and the other new Commissioners as the Board begins the first term with five members.

The President and members of the Common Council join me and City staff in wishing you and yours a happy and healthy 2011.

Sincerely,

Mayor

8th Annual Foreign Film Festival

Film Lovers in Carroll County (FLICC) has announced the schedule for the 8th Annual Foreign Film Festival at the Carroll Arts Center. All films will be shown on Friday evenings at 7:30pm. Each will be shown with English Subtitles.

Tickets are \$6 for Adults and \$5 for CCAC Members, Students & Seniors. The Festival is sponsored by McDaniel College and members of the McDaniel community are admitted free with an I.D. The schedule is as follows:

February 4: "The Secrets in their Eyes"; Argentina; 2009; Rated R; 129 mins. A retired legal counselor writes a novel hoping to find closure for one of his past unresolved homicide cases and for his unreciprocated love with his superior. This intriguing film won the 2009 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film.

February 11: "Volver"; Spain; 2006; Rated R; 121 mins. After her death, a mother returns to her home town in order to fix the situations she couldn't resolve during her life. Pedro Almodovar's award winning comedy stars the stunning Penelope Cruz.

February 18: "After the Wedding"; Denmark; 2006; Rated R; 120 mins. A manager of an orphanage in India is sent to Copenhagen where he discovers a life altering secret.

February 25: "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"; Denmark; 2009; Rated R; 152 mins. A journalist is aided in his search for a woman who has been missing, or dead, for 40 years, by a young female hacker. This first installment of Stieg Larsen's trilogy has become an international literary sensation. The other two films in the Millennium Trilogy will be screened as a double feature on Sunday, March 27.

The Carroll Arts Center is located at 91 W. Main Street in downtown Westminster MD. For more information or to purchase tickets online visit

www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org or call 410/848-7272.



Carroll Arts Center Galleries

January 6—February 18: The Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, is pleased to present "*FotoFocus 2011: Solo Journeys Through the Lens*" in the Community Gallery during regular arts center hours. In the Fall of 2006, four photographers met for the first time in a Brooklandville studio to share and critique their work. One by one they unveiled their images, reflecting a variety of visions. The chemistry of the evening worked, and *FotoFocus* was born. Four years, thousands of shots and nine photographers later, *FotoFocus* remains committed to exploring the craft and visions of its members through constructive self-examination. The membership now includes a Baltimore Sun photographer; several award-winning studio, fine art and commercial photographers; and more than a few educators. Recent individual projects include an evocative "Lensbaby" look at the history of Baltimore's movie theaters, an exploration of the haunting scapes of Brittany, and a dreamlike celebration of high-intensity moments at the opera. These and other arresting subjects are highlighted in this, the group's first collective show. Explorers of all ages and interests are welcome.

FotoFocus 2011 exhibitors include Phyllis Berger, Amy Davis, Mal Druskin, Coos Hamburger, Penny Harris, Jesse Hellman, Shawn Levin, Leo Howard Lubow, Julia Pearson, Sayra Wells Meyerhoff, and Jeffrey Schraeder. A Meet the Artists Reception will be held on Thursday, January 20th, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

January 13—March 26: The Carroll Arts Center, 91 West Main Street, is pleased to present the exhibit "*Secret Boxes*" in the Tevis Gallery. Boxes hold stuff. However, this exhibit elevates the concept of boxes for everyday storage to works of fine art and mystery. The artists in this exhibit either create functional boxes from nature's bounty of elegant, finely grained woods or use boxes made from handmade paper to discarded materials to isolate objects of memory, objects of affection or a collection of found objects and make them precious. Often the exterior of the box tells the story and leaves the viewer searching for a deeper meaning.

Artists to be featured include: Larry Fisher of Westminster; Chris Mona of Annapolis; Kyle Miller, Nadya Volicer, and Jean Cohen of Baltimore; Matt Keener of Chesapeake City; Mindi Hirt of Chevy Chase; Kerri Cushman of Longwood, VA; and others. A Meet with Artists Reception will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 20th.



For more information on any of these events, contact the Carroll Arts Center at 410-848-7272 or visit www.CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org

Reminder

With the implementation of the new bulk trash system, a standard schedule will be followed WITHOUT THE NEED TO CALL FOR A PICKUP. All bulk waste will be collected from residences throughout the City on this every-other-week schedule. Residents are required to place bulk pickup items out by 7a.m. on the pickup day to ensure collection.

Bulk Trash Schedule for 2011

January S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 4 Y 6 7 8 9 T M Y E W 15 16 17 18 Y 20 21 22 23 T M Y E W 29 30 31 Christmas trees will be picked up on Jan 3, 10, 24, & 31	February S M T WTh F S 1 Y 3 4 5 6 T M Y E W 12 13 14 15 Y 17 18 19 20 N M Y E W 26 27 28	March S M T WTh F S 1 Y 3 4 5 6 T M Y E W 12 13 14 15 Y 17 18 19 20 T M Y E W 26 27 28 29 Y 31
April S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 T M Y E W 9 10 11 12 Y 14 15 16 17 T M Y E N 23 24 25 26 Y 28 29 30	May S M T WTh F S 1 T M Y E W 7 8 9 10 Y 12 13 14 15 T M Y E W 21 22 23 24 Y 26 27 28 29 N M	June S M T WTh F S Y E W 4 5 6 7 Y 9 10 11 12 T M Y E W 18 19 20 21 Y 23 24 25 26 T M Y E
July S M T WTh F S W 2 3 4 5 Y 7 8 9 10 T M Y E W 16 17 18 19 Y 21 22 23 24 T M Y E W 30 31	August S M T WTh F S 1 2 Y 4 5 6 7 T M Y E W 13 14 15 16 Y 18 19 20 21 T M Y E W 27 28 29 30 Y	September S M T WTh F S 1 2 3 4 N M Y E W 10 11 12 13 Y 15 16 17 18 T M Y E W 24 25 26 27 Y 29 30
October S M T WTh F S 1 2 T M Y E W 8 9 10 11 Y 13 14 15 16 T M Y E W 22 23 24 25 Y 27 28 29 30 T	November S M T WTh F S M Y E W 5 6 7 8 Y 10 11 12 13 T M Y E W 19 20 21 22 Y 24 25 26 27 T M Y	December S M T WTh F S E W 3 4 5 6 Y 8 9 10 11 T M Y E W 17 18 19 20 Y 22 23 24 25 N M Y E N 31

Pickup Schedule Key

T	Tree limbs/Brush
M	Metal, Tires, Batteries, Large Appliances
Y	Yard waste
E	Bulk Trash East of MD Rt31
W	Bulk Trash West of MD Rt31
N	NO PICKUP, City offices closed for Holiday

*NOTE: If the scheduled pickup day falls on a City holiday, bulk trash items will be collected on the next scheduled date.

Remember to Clear Snow and Ice from Sidewalks

From the Code Enforcement Office

As a Reminder to Westminster Citizens within City limits:

Please remember to have your sidewalks cleared within 24 hrs of a snow or ice event. Failure to do so not only could result in liability on the property owner's behalf, but also a \$200 fine issued by Code Inspector.

Stay safe during this winter season!

Be a Good Neighbor This Winter

After snow and ice stop falling, it's time to clear the white stuff away. Some citizens may have difficulty achieving this task due to age, disability, or other reasons. If you see that a neighbor might need help this winter clearing snow or ice from their sidewalk, driveway, car, or porch, be a good neighbor and lend a hand.

Also, if you see a fire hydrant or stormdrain that is covered in snow, please take time to help emergency responders and Public Works employees by clearing these areas for quick and easy access should an emergency arise and to help avoid melting snow from flooding streets.

Avoid driving and traveling during wintry conditions. If you find that you must leave your home, leave with extra time and drive slowly and carefully. Try not to become upset at another driver going under the speed limit; remember—they are being safe!

Always exercise extreme caution during hazardous conditions and stay safe this winter season.

Christmas Tree Collection



By expanding our tree limb collection service to include Christmas trees during the month of January, the City has enough material to create mulch for City properties, with some to spare.

Our Public Works Department estimates that they can produce 200 tons of mulch from the Christmas trees and other tree limbs "donated" each year.

(see next column...)

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Nationally, "Treecycling" programs are sprouting up in communities everywhere. Trees that were once destined for the landfill (at a cost of \$60/ton) are now taken to a central location and fed through machinery to make mulch. In Westminster, the Public Works department uses the mulch to maintain landscaping in our public spaces.

For something so simple, mulch adds tremendous value to your landscape. It insulates the soil and plant roots from temperature extremes, protects soils from compaction, allows water to infiltrate the ground slowly, and decomposes to add vital nutrients and porosity to the soil. Besides that, it looks a lot better than bare dirt!

Christmas trees will be collected curbside for recycling on the following schedule:

Beginning February 1st, Christmas trees will be collected every other Monday following the tree limb/brush bulk trash pickup schedule (more details on previous page).

Christmas trees may also be dropped off at the Westminster Skate Park behind City Hall on Longwell Avenue until March 1st.

Should you need more information, or if you have any questions, please call the Information Desk at 410-848-9000.

Scrabble Madness Charity Scrabble Contest at McDaniel College



Saturday, February 19, 1pm to 5pm:

Logophiles (young and young at heart) --team up and start practicing for a countywide charity Scrabble contest. The McDaniel

English Department, the Literacy Council of Carroll County, and the Westminster Rotary Club will host "Scrabble Madness," a charity Scrabble contest in the McDaniel College Forum. Teams will consist of one to three people, and the youngest team members must be in the sixth grade. The deadline for registration is February 15, but registration will close when 64 teams have entered. The Team Entrance Fee will be \$100. The proceeds will benefit the Literacy Council and the Westminster Rotary Club's community projects. Registration forms are available at Carroll County Public Library branches, the Literacy Council (Carroll Non Profit Center; 255 Clifton Blvd, Suite 314, Westminster) and the Carroll Arts Center (91 W. Main Street in Westminster). Forms are also available upon request. For more information, contact Mary Bendel-Simso at mbendels@mcdaniel.edu

Snow date for Scrabble Madness:
Saturday, February 26.